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Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-12 AGRE-00 AID-05 CEA-01
CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DLOS-09 DODE-00
DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 SOE-02 DOE-15 FMC-01 TRSE-00
H-01 INR-10 INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 NSF-01 OES-07 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 AF-10 EUR-12 /172 W
----------040715 021244Z /45
R 011304Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4369
INFO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARAMARIBO 793

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR NS US
SUBJ: FAREWELL CALL ON PRIME MINISTER

1. DURING AMBASSADOR'S FAREWELL CALL MAY 31, PRIME MINISTER ARRON DESCRIBED U.S.-SURINAM RELATIONS AS "GOING SMOOTHLY" AND WITHOUT ANY PROBLEMS. HE EXPRESSED INTEREST IN PROGRESS IN THE SALT TALKS, DEVELOPMENTS IN AFRICA AND THE STATE OF U.S-CUBAN RELATIONS.

2. ARRON SAID THAT THE GOS IS "DEEPLY CONCERNED" BY THE COURSE OF EVENTS IN AFRICA AND EXPRESSED HIS VIEW THAT CUBAN ACTIVITIES IN MANY OF THE COUNTRIES THERE CONSTITUTED "REAL INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS." AMBASSADOR DESCRIBED U.S. CONCERN ABOUT THE SOVIET BACKING OF CUBAN INVOLVEMENT IN AFRICA AND OBSERVED THAT AS LONG AS THE CUBANS CONTINUE TO DO THE RUSSIAN'S MILITARY WORK IN THAT CONTINENT FURTHER IMPROVEMENT IN U.S. RELATIONS WITH CUBA IS NOT LIKELY EVEN THOUGHT WE WOULD OTHERWISE LIKE TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH THE CUBANS.

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3. AMBASSADOR ASKED WHETHER GOS HAD HEARD ANYTHING FROM THE GUYANESE GOVERNMENT SINCE THE SURINAM REPLY TO GUYANA'S APRIL 12 PROTEST NOTE WAS SENT OVER A MONTH AGO. ARRON SAID THERE HAS BEEN NO OFFICIAL REPLY ALTHOUGH THE GUYANESE AMBASSADOR HAD SAID SOME TIME WOULD BE REQUIRED FOR GUYANA'S FOREIGN MINISTER JACKSON TO STUDY THE SITUATION. HOEVER, ADDED ARRON, THIS DOESN'T MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE BECAUSE

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SURINAM ITSELF WILL, WITHIN A FEW WEEKS, INITIATE ACTION TO BEGIN DISCUSSIONS ON THE BORDER QUESTION INVOLVING THE TWO COUNTRIES. ARRON SAID THAT HE WAS NOT AWARE OF ANY PRIVATE GUYANESE EFFORTS TO RESOLVE THE SITUATION AND EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT GUYANESE LAWYER LLOYD LUCKHOO VISITED SURINAM WEEKEND OF MAY 26 ONLY TO DISCUSS LEGAL QUESTIONS WITH HIS CLIENTS WHO OWN THE SURINAMESE FISHING TRAWLER SEIZED IN GUYANA LAST SEPTEMBER (SUGAM AND SURINAM AMERICAN INDUSTRIES LTD.)

4. ARRON SAID THAT THE TRANSLATION OF SURINAM'S 200-MILE ZONE LEGISLATION IS NOW FINISHED (HELP HAVING BEEN PROVIDED BY THE UN) AND THAT ACCOMPANYING BYLAWS SHOULD BE READY WITHIN "A COUPLE OF WEEKS."
ARRON ADMITTED THAT SURINAM WILL NOT BE ABLE TO EFFECTIVELY ENFORCE ENTIRE AREA ENCOMPASSED IN NEW ZONE BECAUSE SURINAM ARMY PATROL VESSELS STILL ARE NOT OUTFITTED WITH THEIR GUNS AND EVEN THEN WOULD BE INADEQUATE IN NUMBER. HE SUGGESTED THAT THE AREA COULD BE PROTECTED ONLY THROUGH A COOPERATIVE EFFORT INVOLVING ALL COUNTRIES OF THE REGION INCLUDING VENEZUELA, GUYANA, FRENCH GUIANA AND BRAZIL, AS WELL AS SURINAM. NONETHELESS, HE CONCLUDED, SURINAM WILL PROCEED TO PROMULGATE THE NEW ZONE SO THAT DISCUSSIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE AREA CAN BE STARTED.
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